

U12 Systems of Play

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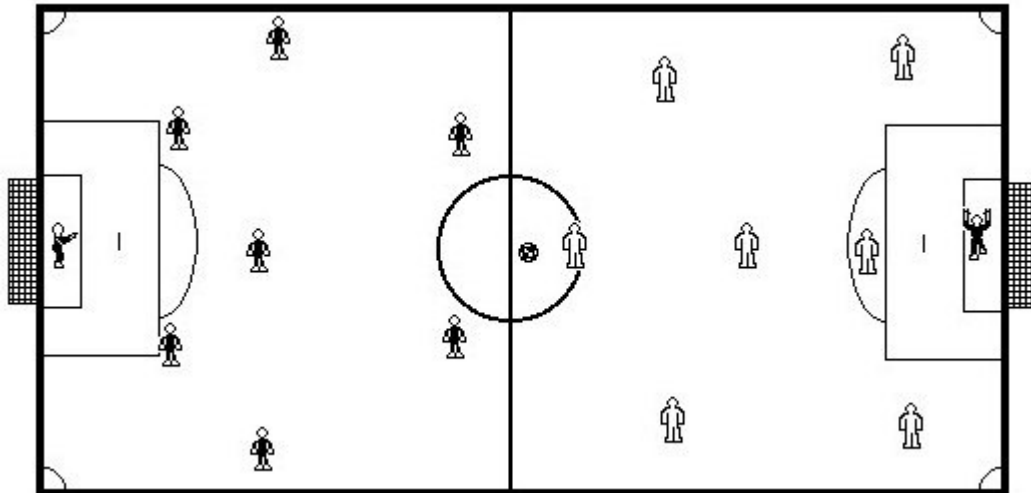
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US Youth Soccer

Game format: 8 vs. 8

Possible formations: 3-2-2; 3-3-1; 2-3-2

- All formations allow the players to execute the principles of play
- All players must attack and defend in this system of play
- All formations, when played on an appropriate U12 size field, allow the players to:
 - switch the point of attack
 - attack the far post on corner kicks and from the flow of play
 - stay compact



- **3-3-1** formation may require the center forward to play 'off-center' to one side. This then makes it possible to combine with the center midfielder and an outside midfielder.

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- The opposite flank is now open for overlap attack by the outside fullback and midfielder.
- **3-2-2** formation is the easiest in which to form triangles around the ball.
- It is the easiest in which to provide support on offense and defense.
- It is the easiest formation to coach and therefore may be best suited to the novice coach.

- **2-3-2** formation is the most demanding on the players and coach.
- This formation emphasizes transition and the tactical awareness that makes transition possible.
- Considerable demand of vision and communication is placed upon the players.
- Zone defense, requiring tactical growth, is mandatory.

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